

St. James R.C. Church
December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday of Advent

4th Sunday
OF ADVENT



"And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." - Lk 1:43-45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

429 Route 25A, Setauket, New York 11733-3829

Parish Office: (631) 941.4141

Fax: (631) 751.6607

Faith Formation Office: (631) 751.7287

Email: parish@stjamessetauket.org

Website: www.stjamessetauket.org

Office Hours: M-F 9am-4pm (closed for lunch 12-12:30)

Sat. 9am-2pm

2021 Mission Statement

We, the Catholic community of the Three Village area, formed as the Body of Christ through the waters of Baptism, are a pilgrim community journeying toward the fullness of the Kingdom of God, guided by the Holy Spirit, nourished by the Eucharist and formed by the Gospel.

We strive to respond to Jesus' invitation: to be faithful and fruitful disciples; to be a Good Samaritan to (our) neighbor and enemy; stewards of and for God's creation and living witnesses of Faith, Hope and Charity ... so that in Jesus' name, we may be a welcoming community, respectful of life in all its diversities.

Weekday Masses

Monday – Saturday: 8:00 am

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 pm (Youth)*

*live streamed & taped for viewing on our website and FB pages

Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am (Family), 11:30am (Choir)

Holy Days of Obligation

Vigil: 7:30 pm

Day: 8:00am, 12 Noon

Special Needs Mass:

Second Saturday of the month at 1:00pm (Sept-May)

Nocturnal Adoration:

First Friday of the Month, 7:30-8:30pm

Reconciliation

Saturdays 4:00 – 4:45 pm or by appointment

Rev. Robert Kuznik, Pastor

frrobert@stjamessetauket.org (ext. 322)

Rev. Robert Scheckenback, Assoc. Pastor

frbob@stjamessetauket.org (ext. 320)

Dcn. Louis and Mrs. Eileen Anetrella

Rev. John Fitzgerald, in residence

Rev. Mike S. Ezeatu, in residence (ext. 326)

Business Manager: Todd Bradshaw (ext.312)

Dir. of Outreach: Kathy Vaeth (ext. 313)

Dir. of Faith Formation: Louise DiCarlo

(ext. 329) Admin. Asst. Joanmarie Zipman (ext. 328)

Finance Manager: Theresa Ellner (ext. 335)

Music Co-Director: Richard Foley (631) 806.1794

Music Co-Director: Miriam Salerno (516)

263.5173

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

(RCIA): Ueli Laeng (631)941.4141

Parish Receptionists:

Carol Modugno (M-Th)

Nnebundo Obi (Sat)

Parish Facilities Supervisor: Jeff Fallon

Please visit our parish website (www.stjamessetauket.org) for the latest parish information as well as weekly homilies and virtual weekly Masses. Visit the diocesan website (www.DRVC.org) for diocesan news and schedule of virtual Masses.



**MASS INTENTIONS
FOR THE WEEK OF
DECEMBER 19, 2021**

Sunday, December 19

- 8am** Florence Giacomazza
- 9:30am** Our parishioners living and deceased
- 11:30am** Mark Salerno, Frank Salerno, Antoinette Salerno, Joan Rock, Marianne Nugent

Monday, December 20

- 8am** Arlene Murtha, Deceased members of the Scalandre Family

Tuesday, December 21

- 8am** Mary J. and Nicholas G. Combader, Dr. Juan Madariaga

Wednesday, December 22

- 8am** Brendan Yantz

Thursday, December 23

- 8am** Frank & Raymond Mazza

Friday, December 24

- 8am**
- 4pm** Our parishioners living and deceased-Christmas Mass Remembrance
- 4:15pm** Our parishioners living and deceased - Christmas Mass Remembrance
- 7pm** Our parishioners living and deceased - Christmas Mass Remembrance
- 11pm** Our parishioners living and deceased - Christmas Mass Remembrance

Saturday, December 25

- 8am** Our parishioners living and deceased-Christmas Mass Remembrance
- 9am** Our parishioners living and deceased-Christmas Mass Remembrance
- 9:30am** Our parishioners living and Deceased-Christmas Mass Remembrance
- 11:30am** Our parishioners living and Deceased-Christmas Mass Remembrance

Sunday, December 26

- 8am** Ezio Stefani
- 9:30am** Christmas Mass Remembrance
- 11:30am** Our parishioners living and deceased, Kevin Hewitt, Donna Marie Panzella, Jojo LaRosa, Patricia Matovich

Thank you for giving of your time, talent and treasure

COLLECTION UPDATE

December 12, 2021: \$7,912+7,739 (FD)=\$15,651

December 13, 2020: \$14,261

December 15, 2019: \$18,754

Please consider making your weekly donations on-line by enrolling at **faith.direct/ny997**.

Doing so enables our ministries to continue to meet the physical and spiritual needs of those in our parish family as well as the larger community who have been impacted by COVID19 and related job losses.

E-giving simplifies your giving and provides consistent support to the parish. **To provide additional assistance, please select the "offset fee option" when setting up your donation, which will help reduce our expenses.**

If you require assistance with the process, please call the parish office (Tuesday 9am-1pm or Friday 9:30-12pm) and make an appointment with Megan to set up your Faith Direct on-line giving account.

Enroll today at: www.faithdirect.net



Pope's Intention for Evangelization

Catechists. Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God; may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



*Welcome to the
Parish of St. James*

No matter your present or past status in the Catholic Church; **No** matter your current family or marital situation; **No** matter your past or present affiliation; **No** matter your personal history, age, background, race or color, you are invited, welcomed and accepted at St. James RC Church.

If you are new to the area, we invite you to choose St. James as your parish family.

PARISH INFORMATION

Sacraments

Baptism: Two Sundays per month at 1:30 pm.
Please contact the office after the fourth month of pregnancy to make arrangements.

Holy Matrimony: Please contact the office at least nine months before your desired date.

Anointing of the Sick: By request

Pastoral Council: Mrs. Roni Groth, Mr. John Holownia, Mrs. Josephine Prokop, Mr. Fred Sawicki, Mr. Michael Vaeth, Mrs. Judi Wallace

Parish Finance Committee: Mr. Edward Gutleber, Chair; Mr. Todd Bradshaw (*Business Manager*) Mrs. Theresa Ellner (*Financial Manager*), Mr. Robert Freaso, (*Parish Trustee*), Mr. Thomas Powers (*Parish Trustee*), Mr. Matthew Berger, Mr. Christopher McGeever, Mrs. Judi Wallace

Prayer Opportunities

Nocturnal Adoration: First Fridays 7:30 — 8:30 pm

Recitation of the Scriptural Rosary: Monday to Saturday after the 8am Mass

Ministries:

Alpha: Mrs. Roni Groth, Mrs. Barbara Jaeckel

Bereavement Ministry: Ms. Catherine Horgan,

Mr. Dennis Reardon (*please call 631.941.4141 x341*)

Camino Café Ministry: Mrs. Sallie Culloton, Mrs. Doreen Corrado

Choir: Mr. Richard Foley, Mrs. Miriam Salerno

Sat 5pm Teen, Sun 9:30am Youth, Sun. 11:30am Adult

Christ in the Marketplace: Mr. Jack Herr (*631.941.4141*)

CYO Board: Mr. Charles Arasi, Chair; Mrs. Samantha Bradshaw,

Mr. John Case, Mr. Patrick (Pat) Tunstead

Eucharistic Ministry to Homebound Parishioners:

If you or anyone you know is homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist at home, please call 631.941.4141

Fertility Care Services: Helen McCarthy, R.Ph, PharmD, CFCPI
(*htmccarthy@optonline.net or 631.455.4137*)

Knights of Columbus, Mother Teresa of Calcutta Council #12006:

Grand Knight, Mr. John Yantz

Laudato Si Environmental Ministry: Mr. Robert Becherer

Liturgy Committee: Ms. Louise DiCarlo

Liturgical Ministries: EMHC-Mrs. Kathy Brown, Mrs. Mary Berretta

Readers: Mrs. Peggie McHugh Eletto

Altar Servers: Mrs. Judi Wallace, Peter Morelli, MD

Ushers/Greeters: Mr. Robert Freaso

Men's Monthly Breakfast Gathering:

Ministry of Consolation: Mrs. Carol Simco

Nocturnal Adoration: Mr. Eric Waxman (631) 689.9759

Our Daily Bread: (631)941.4141 x 350 ODB@stjamessetauket.org

Parish Bulletin and Website: Editor, Ms. Catherine Horgan

Contact rectory office 631.941.4141

Parish Liturgical Environment Committee:

Contact rectory office 631.941.4141

Pre-Cana Ministry: Mr. and Mrs. Diane and James Santangelo

Contact rectory office 631.941.4141

RCIA: Mr. and Mrs. Lorraine and Ueli Laeng

Contact the rectory office 631.941.4141

Respect Life Committee of St. James: Mr. Eric Waxman

631.689.9759.

Rosary Altar Society of St. James: Mrs. Patricia Raptoulis at

631.473.3561

Spiritual Direction: Mr. Ueli Laeng *Please call the rectory office*

631.941.4141

St. James Rosary Makers: Mrs. Mary DiBenedetto 631.236.8899

St. James Vigil Ministry: Ms. Louise DiCarlo

Wedding Facilitators: Mrs. Maureen Denzler, Mrs. Chris Weisman

Women's Scripture Study: Mrs. Cathy Roberts SJA 631.689.2645



Parish Policy

Please be reminded that as a matter of policy, any and all events, conferences, meetings, plays, sporting events, fundraising efforts, etc. must have the expressed, written permission of the pastor (or his designee) before plans can be finalized. The parish is a legal entity with certain obligations that must be considered prior to approval of events. This includes the use of the name St. James in any way, shape or form, explicitly or implicitly. Contracts with outside vendors, speakers or service providers cannot be signed by anyone other than the pastor or his designee.



Join us in praying the Holy Rosary after the 8am Mass every 1st Saturday.

"I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all who on the First Saturday of five consecutive months, confess their sins, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the purpose of making reparation to my Immaculate Heart."

Sunday, December 19

READINGS AND OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK of December 19 Fourth Sunday in Advent

Monday, December 20

Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 21

St. Peter Canisius, Priest, Doctor of the Church

Sg 2:8-14/Lk 1:39-45

Wednesday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

Thursday, December 23

Mal 3:1-4,23-24/Lk 1:57-66

Friday, December 24

Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

Is 62:1-5/Acts 13:16-17,22-25/Mt 1:1-25

Saturday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18

Sunday, December 26

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

1 Sm 1:20-22,24-28/ 1 Jn 3:1-2,21-24/Lk 2:41-52

In compliance with Diocesan policy from the Office for the Protection of Children & Young People, (516) 678.5800, ext. 573: If you suspect any child abuse, first contact Child Protective Services at (800) 342.3720 and then contact the Diocesan Hotline at (516) 594.9063. If you believe **someone is in immediate danger**, call Suffolk County Police at 911.



Mother Teresa Council

"Each one of them is Jesus in disguise"

~Mother Teresa~



Take twenty minutes out of your day to pray the rosary and you will see the difference it will make in your life.



Friends and Family Dec. Raffle Winners

We are pleased to announce our final 2021 raffle winners. Winning numbers were selected by an independent service that certifies the complete randomness of each selection. We thank all those who participated in this year's Raffle. Congratulations to all 100 winning selections during 2021! Tickets for the 2022 Raffle will be on sale in January.

December winners were:

- \$500 Robert L. Scutellaro (Ticket #866)
- \$150 Elias Faraci (Ticket #233)
- \$150 Richard Laskowski (Ticket #894)
- \$125 Mike & Denise Ryan (Ticket #011)
- \$125 Alan H. Smith (Ticket #541)
- \$125 Bruce Larrabee (Ticket #432)
- \$125 Joan Cella (Ticket #583)
- \$100 Richard Laskowski (Ticket #893)
- \$100 Jay Boiarsky (Ticket #665)
- \$100 Joyce Bonitch (Ticket #377)



LAST CHANCE to Get Your Christmas Magnets

This weekend, after Masses, is your last chance to get your Christmas magnet having the **'Keep Christ in Christmas'** manger scene message, promoting the real meaning of Christmas. Don't miss out!

As a practicing Catholic man, if you'd like to get involved with our Council as a proud Knight, call Fred @ 631.751.7375 about joining this fraternal service organization, whose guiding principles are charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. Or, you may join the organization as an online member by visiting www.kofc.org and elect to join into our Council at a later date.



Greetings from the St. James Rosary Altar Society



December Feast Days to Note:

- Dec. 25 The Nativity, The Birth of Jesus, Our Savior
- January 1 The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The Rosary Altar Society updates:

The Rosary Altar Society is a Ministry of Church of St. James open to the ladies of our parish. We look forward to new members and assure you of friendship and a time to enjoy each other's company.

Our Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 8th at the St. George Golf and Country Club was enjoyable. The food was delicious, the Christmas music inspiring and joyful and our Chinese Auction was a success due to the beautiful gift selections on the **"Tables of Prizes"**. The proceeds from the auction are for **our Parish Outreach and to our Parish Building Fund.**

Our officers are planning our Meetings and Events Calendar for the 2022 season. We welcome membership ideas and suggestions for the new season.

There will be **NO** meeting in January. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

You will be updated as to upcoming Meetings and Events through December and January. Be sure to keep updated through this RAS bulletin announcements and emails.

To become a Rosary Altar Society member, please call Pat Raptoulis @ 631-473-3561

"Let us live as the Blessed Virgin lived: loving God only, desiring God only, trying to please God only in all that we do". St John Vianney





"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Pray for Our Sick

Please pray for all members of the parish family, especially :

Elvira Aliota, Julia Balzarno-Maglio, Robert Banish, Mary Barretta, Ronald Blasius, Roberta Brown, Glenn Buro, Keith Buro, Michael Carpenter, Carol Cirillo, John Dahl, Brian Darmody, Camille DiCarlo, Baby Charlotte Dwyer, Mary Fredericks, Arleen Gargiulo, Lauren Giordano, Emma Giuliano, Tom Giuliano, Lettie Graham, Steven Gynp, Kevin Hammer, Caleb Hernandez, Nicole Juliano, Baby Kennedy, Geraldine Ketteridge, June Klein, Allan Krotz, Sr., George LaBriola, Jr., Marty Lindblad, Mary Maio, Kayla Marianetti, Rudy Mazureczak, Diane McDonald, John McGarvey, Tom McHugh, Gianna Morelli, Brian Newman, Dcn. Wayne Padula, Christine El Qadah, Gloria Ruppert, Rose Sangiamo, Debby Saunders, Linda Shannon, Brady Spennato, John Stone, William Sullivan, MaryAnn Trombetta, Anya Vulpis, Adelaide Marie Wardrope, Christine Wall, Robert Whitcomb

May they and their families, have health, strength and peace in you, O Lord. Amen.



Pray for Our Military Personnel

Please remember in prayer all of the men and women from our parish and country who serve so selflessly in our Armed Forces.

Keep them, their families, friends and loved ones in prayer as they serve our country at home and on foreign soil.

*U.S. Marine Corp. 1st Lieutenant Kyle Antonucci
U.S. Army, SPC Patrick Buckley
U.S. Army Lt. Colonel Erika Holownia
U.S. Army Major Gregory C. Holownia, USA
U.S. Navy SHSN Quintin Lawrence Hurley
U.S. Army, PFC Brandon Leap
U.S. Sergeant Spec. Joseph Mandel, USA
U.S. Air Force SrA Sean T. Murray
U.S. Air Force Capt. Nicole Nowling
U.S. Army, Lt. Daniel Roberts
USMC 1st Lt. Brendan Rose, USA
USMC Lance Corp. Aeon Soler
U.S. Army Major Eric D. Waxman, USA*



In light of the public health emergency surrounding the COVID 19 outbreak, let us continue to pray to St. Raphael the Archangel:

Because you are the "medicine of God" we humbly pray to you to calm our fears and anxieties, and to grant healing to those suffering from the Corona virus; offer your protection and strength to those in the medical professions offering care to those so afflicted.

May we trust in the Lord, who is our Shepherd, as we walk through this valley of "fear and death", in this time of darkness. May we be anointed in the Spirit's love and ask that you always direct us in the way of peace, health and salvation. Amen.

SPECIAL SALE JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!



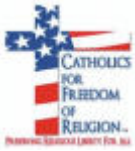
The Rosary and Hat Makers Ministry will hold a Christmas Sale on the first three weekends in December in the Fr. Jim Mannion Vestibule (sacristy entrance). We will raffle off two beautiful blankets.

Tickets are only \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00; the drawing will take place on December 19 after the 11:30 am Mass. Our members have been very busy this year making items for this sale. They will include but not be limited to hats, scarfs, baby hats and blankets, potholders, French market bags and much more.

Please come and treat yourself, purchase Christmas gifts or something for that special someone. Supporting our ministry helps us to make rosary's for the missions and hats for our sisters and brothers in need. We donate to about 6 local church outreach programs as well as to a women's shelter with newborns and children under one year of age.

We hope you will come and show your support to the ladies in our ministry for all their work and dedication in providing you the opportunity to shop. All proceeds gives us the ability to buy more supplies and continue our good works.

December 11/12 and December 18/19)



First Amendment to the Constitution: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; Asserting our right to welcome the Christ Child openly and joyfully to hearts and homes.

Inspiring Christmas Quotes from Inspiring Christians

“Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel.” - Isaiah 7:14

“Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.” - C.S. Lewis

“He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands He formed. He cried in a manger in wordless infancy, He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.” - St. Augustine

“I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world.” - Norman Vincent Peale

“The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.” - C.S. Lewis

“At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving the others with God’s own love and concern.” - Mother Teresa

“God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.” - St. Augustine

“We consider Christmas as the encounter, the great encounter, the historical encounter, the decisive Encounter, between God and mankind. He who has faith knows this truly; let him rejoice.” – Pope Paul VI

“Christmas is joy, religious joy, an inner joy of light and peace.” - Pope Francis

“The simple shepherds heard the voice of an Angel and found their Lamb; the wise men saw the light of a star and found their wisdom.” - Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” - John 1:14

Our Fifth Annual “Gentle Eve” Mass

*Friday, December 31, 2021
7:30pm in the church*

An old year doesn’t exit quietly, nor does a new year make its entry in silence. Around the world, this holiday we call New Year’s Eve, this day of making resolutions as a blank calendar unfolds before us, announces its presence with noisy celebrations that can include the banging of pots, lighting of fireworks, honking of horns, dancing, drinking, and watching the ball drop in Times Square.

For many of us, this particular celebration can be emotionally challenging, bittersweet and not surprisingly, completely exhausting, especially after all the demands of family and friends to enjoy a “perfect” Christmas.

Since 2017 we have offered a “Gentle Eve” celebration of the Mass, an alternative way in which to observe New Year’s Eve without the noise and pressure that usually accompanies it. If you have joined us in the past, we hope you will do so again, and for those who have haven’t yet experienced the quiet, candle lit beauty of a “Gentle Eve”, we invite you to join us to celebrate and pray the Mass in thanksgiving for the year about to end, and offer one another hope for the year about to begin.

Due to the recent mask mandate, we regret there will be no reception after Mass this year.

Christmas 2021

Dear Parishioners of St. James Church,

“Community formed as the Body of Christ, through the waters of Baptism, journeying toward fullness of God’s Kingdom, guided by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist and the Word of God.”



We are blessed by the gift of FAITH, which inspires us to do what we do as a parish. Our common faith brings us together to the celebration of the Eucharist each Sunday and many weekdays. In faith, we come to celebrate sacraments and pray for one another. St. James is a beautiful and vibrant community where time and talents come together helping us to praise and sing and to offer our gratitude for the many gifts and blessings God continues to bestow on our families. It is a community of compassion, concern and support for one another.

This has been another very challenging year because of Covid and the affects it has imprinted on our lives and our relationships. Therefore, it has also been a troubling year for the Church. Yet the strong faith and dedication of our parishioners has allowed St. James to be a vibrant family that makes important contributions to the local community. Our parish organizations are always working on many projects to put faith into action and the fruits are enormous!!! We are blessed and we are grateful!!! There is so much we can celebrate this Christmas— “Emmanuel, God is with us!”

Dear friends, may the feast of Christmas and its beautiful season shower you and your families with the gift of Peace. Rejoice that God came to live among us, for through Him we can see and walk again, for through Him we are cleansed and raised to new life and the Kingdom of God is being proclaimed. Yes! God is with us.

May you all have a Very Merry Christmas,

The Priests and Staff of our Parish

NEW

NEW YORK STATE MASK MANDATE

The Governor of New York State has included houses of worship in her recent directives.

Therefore, since the Church does not require parishioners to present proof of vaccination in order to worship God, we ask that all parishioners (two years of age and older) comply with the requirement to wear masks when participating in any activities on parish grounds. This State requirement is currently in effect through January 15, 2022.

We will continue to adapt accordingly as new information becomes available. Your patience and Christian charity towards one another during this difficult time is appreciated.

Diocese of Rockville Centre

Thank You!

We are so grateful to Investors Bank for its support of St. James Parish Outreach/ODB.

We received a grant of \$3,000 from them, and the proceeds helped us to purchase a new oven, replacing the old one in Smith Hall that has been in use by Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen for over 35 years!

We are very proud of the fact that our soup kitchen and pantry has always been a community effort!

Tune in to “Religion and Rock” with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday mornings, 7:00am-8:00am on WBAB 102.3FM or 95.3FM on Long Island’s East End. Listen on Saturdays at 11:00pm on Sirius radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11pm on XM Satellite, Channel 117.

Next Sunday (December 26)

“New Beginnings”

Christmas Schedule at St. James 2021

*Please note the following schedule for reconciliation and Masses
for Christmas Eve and Day
and
New Year's Eve and Day*

Reconciliation:

Saturday, December 18: 3-4:45pm

Monday, December 20: after 8am Mass and 12-1:30pm

Tuesday, December 21: after 8am Mass

Wednesday, December 22: after 8am Mass and 7-8pm

Masses:

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24:

4pm in the church

4:15pm in the Parish Center

*7pm in the church ***

10:30pm Carols in the church

11pm "Midnight Mass" in the church

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25: 8am in the church

*9:30am in the church ***

10:30am in the Parish Center

11:30am in the church

New Year's Eve, Friday, December 31: 5pm in the church

*7pm in the church "Gentle Eve" Mass ***

New Year's Day, Saturday, January 1: 8am in the church

*** indicates the Mass will be live-streamed on our webpage and Facebook page.*

St. James Parish



Fund Raiser Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our recent Christmas Raffle Fund Raiser!

First Prize: *Philip G Eletto*

Second Prize: *Patricia Fox*

Third Prize (2 winners) : *Carmelina Oliveira, and Barbara Bunici*

Our thanks to all those who helped make the raffle such a huge success; your generosity continues to help our parish when it's most needed.

Merry Christmas!

We are pleased to present these special opportunities to deepen your prayer life both individually and as a family during this Advent Season.

JESSE TREE PRAYERS

FIRST WEEK: O Lord, stir up Your power and come, that we may be rescued from the results of our sins by Your holy protection. Come and free us from sin. We ask this of you through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SECOND WEEK: O Lord, stir up our hearts to make them ready for the coming of Your Son. Help us to become worthy to serve You. Give us pure hearts and minds. We ask this of You through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

THIRD WEEK O Lord, we beg You to listen to our prayers. Give us the light of Your grace, that we may see goodness in the world and not be overcome by the darkness of sin. We ask this of You through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

FOURTH WEEK: O Lord, stir up Your power and come to us. We need You to give us strength, grace and forgiveness. Our sins keep much good from us. May Your grace and your strength help us to receive the good we need. We ask this of You through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

THE "O" ANTIPHONS

December 17: *O Wisdom*, You come out of the mouth of the Most High. You reach from one end of the earth to the other, and keep all things in order by Your power and Your kindness: come and teach us prudence.

December 18: *O Lord and Leader of Israel*, You appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Mt. Sinai: come with outstretched arms and redeem us.

December 19: *O Flower of Jesse*, You are a sign for all the people of God's love for us. Kings keep silence before You and Gentiles pray to you: come to deliver us quickly.

December 20: *O Key of David* and Scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no man can close, You close and no man can open: come and rescue us who are the prisoners of darkness and death.

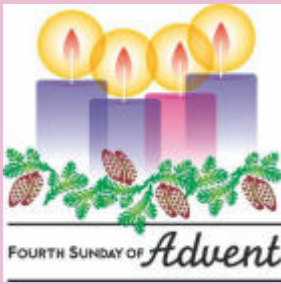
December 21: *O Radiant Dawn*, brightness of light eternal and Sun of Justice: come and enlighten us who sit in the darkness of sin and the shadow of death.

December 22: *O King of the Gentiles*, You are the one who is desired by all people. You are the capstone that makes both Israel and the Gentiles one: come and deliver us, the race You formed from the dust of the earth.

December 23: *O Emmanuel*, our King and lawgiver, You are the expected one of all nations and their Savior: come to save us, O Lord our God.

December 24: PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE:

O God, You fill us with happiness each year as we wait for our celebration of Christmas. May we also joyfully look forward to the coming of Jesus as our final Judge. We ask this of You through Jesus our Lord. Amen.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

An Advent Prayer

By: Bobbie Schaeperkoetter

The whole meaning of Christmas can be explained in one little four letter word...**LOVE**. You sent your gift of pure love to us that first Christmas. Love descended from heaven to be born of a virgin. Love lay in the scratchy hay of a manger in a meager barn in Bethlehem. All of your love, God, was robed in the delicate skin of a baby and wrapped in swaddling clothes. This final week of Advent, help us to reflect on the magnitude of love that was made manifest in Jesus.

Your word became flesh and you made your dwelling among us when Jesus was born. You set aside all of the glory and splendor of heaven and chose the most humble way to enter into your kingdom. Beneath the stars, surrounded by all of the hosts of heaven, Love came. Welcomed by an earthly mother and father, shepherds and wise men, Love came.

You are King and King and Lord of Lords, Messiah and Ruler of All, yet you came not as a lion but as a lamb. You came as an innocent baby whose purpose was walk this earth in complete love, and then to sacrificially give his life as an atonement for the sins of His children. Emmanuel. God with us. Love in the form of a man.

That was your plan. From beginning to end, you knew every minute of Jesus life. You knew that the cross of Calvary was waiting for Jesus, yet you still sent your only Son so that our sin debt could be paid and we could walk blameless because of the shed blood of Jesus.

There is no greater gift then this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends. You willing gave the gift of your life because of your love. Your righteous blood covered our sin. You redeem and restore us when we confess you as Lord and Savior of our life. In that moment you give us the gift of your love for all eternity. We receive grace upon grace and mercy upon mercy in that moment.

The greatest gift of all came that first Christmas. It wasn't wrapped in a beautiful package and set under a decorated tree. The greatest gift came wrapped in the flesh of baby Jesus and laid in the rough wood of a manger. Our perfect gift would later be rewrapped in the scars of our sin and nailed to the rugged wood of a cross on Calvary, all because of love.

Father, this final week of Advent, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Thank you, Lord, for loving us enough to send Jesus.

In Jesus' precious name we pray. *Amen.*



CYO Girls Volleyball Try-outs

Tryouts for the 2022 CYO Girls Volleyball season will take place on Saturday, January 8th in the Parish Center from 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

5th grade: 9:30 - 10:15 am

6th grade: 10:30 - 11:15 am

7th grade: 11:30 am

8th grade: 12:30 - 1:15 p.m.

The volleyball season will run from February through mid-May.

For try-outs, please plan to arrive a few minutes earlier than the slated time to allow for registration. We ask that if possible, have your child wear a t-shirt with their last name on the back (we will have a roll of tape to label shirts, if needed) and bring a water bottle.

A limited number of spots are available on each team; players will be evaluated at the tryout and decisions regarding final team rosters will be made shortly afterwards.

Please note: **we are in desperate need of coaches!!** If we cannot secure parent volunteers to coach a team, there will not be a team. If interested in serving as a coach, please contact Kelly Brouthers at: kellybrouthers@gmail.com. Thank you.

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